

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been amended to delete references to numbers shown in the drawings since the claims are not so limited. Independent Claims 1 and 14 have also been amended to positively recite apparatus elements or method steps, respectively, each claim being additionally amended to more clearly define Applicants' invention while incorporating such amendments. Support for the Amendments to these claims is found throughout the Specification and Drawings, and in each respective claim.

Claims 2-13 and 15-18 have been amended to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein," to conform with U.S. practice.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 9-13 have been amended to depend solely from independent Claim 1, and Claims 16-18 have been amended to depend solely from independent Claim 14 in order to eliminate multiple dependencies. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by these amendments, and respectfully request entry thereof prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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